

9-12-88
CLARK
SET UP FILE

September 9, 1988

L
SUBJECT: DARRYL' BUCKINGHAM

On September 9, 1988 at 9:30 am, I received a call from the Warden at the Texas Department of Corrections, related to the above named individual. The Warden called in response to my letter asking for more information concerning Mr. Buckingham.

Mr. Buckingham is presently incarcerated in the Texas system with a 60-year sentence for Aggravated Sexual Assault of a youth. He had previously served time in Texas through Tarrant County for a similiar incident with a under age minor.

Mr. Buckingham had also been in prison in California for the same type of situation.

He received a dishonorable discharge from the Navy, because of the sexual assault of the child of another Navy member. The warden strongly advised that we not use this individual in any way or allow him to associate with the Boys Scouts of America.

ag

Paul Ernst

CONF022324

WATS CALL FORM

CALL BACK REQUESTED _____

COUNCIL # 4

PHONE NO: _____

CALLER: WARDEN

POSITION: TEXAS DEPARTMENT
OF CORRECTIONS

TYPE OF PROBLEM

REGISTRATION _____

VETERANS _____

EXPLORING _____

SCOUTING _____

BOYS' LIFE _____

UNIT # _____

DIST. # _____

EXP. DATE _____

TRANSMITTAL # _____

FILM # _____

DARRYL BUCKINGHAM

60 YR AGGRAVATED SEXUAL ABUSE

64 IN CRIME

DISHONORABLE DISCHARGE FROM NAVY

*Added to CF file
Show no neg.
9/14/88
mm*

NAME PERMIT

DATE 9-9-88

TIME _____

B/4 10/6/88

September 6, 1988

Warden, Department of Corrections
Ramsey 2 Unit

[REDACTED]
Rosharon, TX 77538

Dear Sir:

We recently received some correspondence from an inmate by the name of Darryl L. Buckingham. Mr. Buckingham is trying to have communication with our office concerning some stories which he would like to publish in our magazine for youth. He apparently is also interested in writing for some other publications.

Since we try to maintain high standards in our leadership, I would like to know the reason for Mr. Buckingham's time with you. We certainly would not like to publish an article without knowing something about his background.

Could you write to me and give me more information that would be helpful to us in making a decision related to communications. Thanks very much for your help.

Please send information to:

Mr. Paul Ernst, Registration Service
Personal and Confidential

[REDACTED]
Irving, TX 75015-2079

Sincerely,

Paul Ernst, Director
Registration Service

pam

cc: Mr. William Downs, S200

CONF022326



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

Magazine Division



September 2, 1988

SUBJECT: DARRYL L. BUCKINGHAM

From: Bill Downs, S200

Bill Downs

To: Paul Ernst, S108

Attached is correspondence BOYS' LIFE has received from Darryl L. Buckingham an inmate of the Texas Department of Corrections.

My reply to his March 5, 1987 letter did not deter him.

At this point, I would like to know more of his background before further communication.

Your expertise on this matter will be appreciated.

Thanks.

kdn

Attachment

CONF022327



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
INMATE TRUST FUND

Huntsville, Texas 77340

Instructions:

DEPOSIT SLIP

1. PRINT plainly All requested information.
2. ONLY Money Orders or Cashier's Checks accepted; must be payable to "INMATE TRUST FUND for Inmate, TDC Number.
3. DO NOT Mail Money to Unit for Inmate.
4. DO NOT SEND Personal letters to above address—not forwarded.

Inmate Number:	(1)	4	0	0	4	0	8	(6)				
Inmate Name:	(7)	B	U	C	K	I	N	G	H	A	M	(19)
	(20)	(Last)	(30)	(31)								
	(20)	D	A	R	R	Y	I	(30)	(31)	L	(M.I.)	
	(First)	(M.I.)										

Amount Sent: (38) \$

Check or Money

Order Number (48)

Sender's Name: (81)

Address:

Need Deposit Slips? Send Self-Addressed Stamped Envelope
RO-97 (Rev. 08/84)

DARRYL L. BUCKINGHAM

400458

RAISEY 2 UNIT

Rd #4 Box 1200

ROSHARON, TX 77538

DEAR MR. DOWNS, you

I wrote to you once before about a year and a half ago. In your letter to me you stated that if my supervisor approved of the articles I requested you'd be glad to send them.

Sir, the mailing policy of T.D.C. is any publication sent in by an actual publisher of books or magazines as long as they are appropriate material. Many inmates are allowed to subscribe to Boys Life while in confinement. My requests I believe was to receive a few back issues of Boys Life in order to catch the writing style. The request for the equipment catalog was for the purpose of seeing new items offered. As counselor and ordained minister there are times I take boys on hikes and campouts and I do order things directly from the scout catalog or go to T.C. Pennys or other stores for proper safe equipment which I know the scout organization produces.

Enclosed with this letter are two true stories that actually took place while I was a scout master. The article entitled "Scouts Camping For Fun and Safety" was the very same one I sent to the Childrens Literature Institute in part of a testing series I took to establish if I had the talent to be a writer for children and teenagers. I was most delighted when I discovered I had passed the ability test and how much they enjoyed the story.

I am most sorry I could not

TYPE THE ARTICLES BUT AM INDIGENT AND HAVE NO TYPE OF INCOME WHATSOEVER.

THE SCOUTING PROGRAM IS MY FAVORITE ORGANIZED YOUTH PROGRAM AND THERE HAVE BEEN TIMES I HAVE BEEN REQUESTED BY PARENTS AND BOYS TO SPEAK TO BUSINESS LEADERS AND RECREATION PROGRAMS IN HELPING ESTABLISH A SCOUT TROOP IN SOME SMALL TOWNS. I AND MY PUPPETS ARE MOST GLAD TO BE OF ASSISTANCE IN THIS MATTER.

THE WRITERS INSTITUTE WANTED ME TO ENROLL IN A COURSE IN ORDER TO HIGH LIGHT MY WRITINGS BUT I COULD NOT AFFORD THE \$640.00 FOR THE COURSE.

I HOPE AND PRAY OVER A PERIOD OF TIME I'LL BE ABLE TO SELL ENOUGH ARTICLES AND STORIES TO PURCHASE A PORTABLE TYPE WRITER. THE STORE HERE HAS A NICE PORTABLE FOR UNDER \$170.00 BUT THAT'S A LONG WAY OFF.

UNFORTUNATELY, YOUR SUGGESTION OF PICTURES TO HELP THE ARTICLES ARE NOT POSSIBLE AND NONE WERE EVER TAKEN WHILE I WAS SCOUT MASTER. I THINK A YOUNGSTER DRESSED IN A SCOUT UNIFORM CUB, WEB LOE OR BOY SCOUT IS INDEED VERY IMPRESSIVE.

ENCLOSING I PRAY AT LEAST ONE OF THESE STORIES ARE WORTHY OF APPEARING IN THE FINEST YOUTH MAGAZINE IN AMERICA. ALSO, MY VENTRILOQUIST PUPPET WAS ORDERED THROUGH AN ADD FROM BOYS LIFE.

ANY KINDNESS AND CONSIDERATION IN THESE MATTERS MENTIONED WOULD BE GREATLY APPRECIATED.

Sincerely Yours
DARREY L BUCKINGHAM

ATTN: MR DOWNS

Quoted ARE THE ACTUAL wording in THE LETTER FROM C
JUDITH BRAUNSTAD, DIRECTOR OF ADMISSIONS FOR THE INSTITUTE OF
CHILDREN'S LITERATURE.

Letter dated MAY 19, 1987

"WE believe THE combination OF your present Ability with
OUR Techniques AND one-to-one TRAINING will certainly help
you TO Realize your goal OF becoming A Successful writer.
IF you ARE TO enjoy THE pleasure OF writing FOR
Children AND Teenagers, This is THE opportunity. You
should be pleased with your Achievement. WE were
Especially impressed with your ESSAY ENTITLED "Camping
with Proper Permission AND Safety." we also Found THAT
your Responses TO THE other questions show promising
insight AND THE ESSENTIAL Ability TO write FOR
Children."

Camping with Proper Permission and Safety

IT WAS A WARM, SUNNY, SATURDAY MORNING AS THE TWELVE BOYS WERE GETTING EQUIPMENT AND FOOD PLACED IN THEIR BACKPACKS. AS MANY OF THE BOYS WERE BEHIND IN EARNING WITOL MERIT BADGES, BECAUSE THEIR OLD SCOUT MASTER DIDN'T BOTHER WITH OUT DOOR ACTIVITIES, I THOUGHT WE WOULD COMBINE THINGS. MANY OF MY SCOUTS NEEDED TO EARN THEIR MERIT BADGE FOR HIKING ALSO.

I DISCOVERED THE CAMPSITE WE WERE GOING TO WAS A NICE TWO AND A-HALF MILE STROLL, I TOLD THE BOYS "GENTLE MEN AS IT IS SUCH A LOVELY DAY AND YOU NEED TO EARN VARIOUS BADGES, WE SHALL SIMPLY MARCH OVER TO THE CAMPSITE."

STANDING BEFORE ME WERE A MIXED GROUP OF 12 BOYS, WHITE, BLACK, CHICANO AND INDIAN, I HAD EXPLAINED TO THEM THAT THEY WERE MEMBERS OF THE FINEST BOYS ORGANIZED PROGRAM IN THE WORLD AND AS SUCH YOU SHOULD STEP OUT WITH PRIDE. I SAID TO THEM "AS YOU WALK ALONG, OTHERS WILL SEE YOU AND DETERMINE JUST HOW GOOD THE SCOUT PROGRAM REALLY IS. THERE WILL BE YOUNGER BOYS WHO ARE NOT SCOUTS YET. THE EXAMPLE YOU SET AS YOU WALK ALONG WILL PUT IN THOSE YOUNG MINDS WHETHER THEY WANT TO BECOME FUTURE SCOUTS."

ALL TWELVE BOYS HAD ON THEIR SCOUT SHIRTS, JEANS OR SHORTS, NECKERCHIEF AND LOOKED VERY NEAT AND CLEAN. DRESSING THIS WAY WAS THEIR IDEAS. YES, EACH BACKPACK BORE THE INSIGNIA OF BSA. I LOOKED AT THEM AS MY 12 'SONS' OF WHOM I WAS MOST PROUD.

OUR MARCH TO THE CAMPSITE WAS LEADED BY OUR YOUNG LEADER WHO WAS 13 YEARS OLD AND A TENDERFOOT SCOUT. THE LAST BOY WAS SMALLER THEN THE REST, WITH BLONDE CURLY HAIR. [REDACTED] WAS YOUNGER BROTHER TO OUR LEADER.

Each boy had brought with them their little activity books, to record what they did for the camp out and [REDACTED] and I would initial the booklet to help credit them for their merit badges. No, these were not perfect scouts but they did go by the scout motto "Be prepared." I recall humorously as the boys unpacked their back packs at the campsite, by the stuff they layed out, they had tripled the scout motto.

The big tent we were to use for sleeping and storing equipment was brought by the mother of our leader plus two ice chests for cold drinks and meats not to spoil.

During the hike I was proud of them and I knew they were too. As we passed by business' or by residential areas the boys voluntarily stepped out in a military march and would turn corners that would make a drill sergeant beam with pride.

Arriving at the campsite we could see that it was a nice big clearing away from the wooded area. The road was about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile away. At night we could see the car headlights go by.

The setting up of the big tent was a sight to behold. I believe it was the size to sleep a normal family of six persons, so it was big enough for the boys and me. There was also a small pup tent, 'scout equipment,' that was where the leader would sleep with my [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The 13 year old had gone off with two other boys to gather wood for the fire.

It must be mentioned I was new to the job of being scout master, so I hoped I had a few boys whom knew what they were doing.

page-2-

As I watched The big Tent being set up, my hopes had come True, so far They were well together and knew what to do. An area had been placed off by [REDACTED], the leader, to make certain the Tent was back far enough away from the Fire. "Fire safety" he explained to me.

[REDACTED] And others had cleared a nice area about six to eight foot that the end result was bare dirt. Then all boys and myself carried rocks and piled them up for Lee. I sat and marvelled as I watched [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] build the "Fire wall." in a nice circle. Both boys had piled rocks on top of each other and resulted in a Fire wall about 2 foot high. Along the side were three full buckets of water and a nice pile of dirt with three shovels stuck into the dirt. [REDACTED] told me "These are for fire put out in an emergency and when we are finished before we leave." I was amazed, even as a boy myself I had never been at a campsite for Boy Scouts. Tears filled my eyes because of being so proud of them.

I had determined that I'd write down what occurred here and give it to the Scout officer. Each Scout Troop and leader could learn quite a lesson from these 12 young boys. They indeed were the pride of a small less known Area Council that should be well remembered.

The Tent was in place, the grounding ropes had been tied to little metal pegs, pulled tightly and hammered into the ground. The boys put in their sleeping bags, pack packs etc. As [REDACTED] stood in the door way he said

"See nothing too 't" he no more finished his words then down came the tent unfolding poor little [REDACTED] in the material. The other boys did not stand by and laugh they hurried quickly to see if [REDACTED] was hurt. As I watched them untangle the little boy, I saw what I assumed to be another scout training. As the boys helped [REDACTED] out, the Indian boy had grabbed the first aid kit and had it open and ready.

As others set around trying to figure what was wrong and make sure [REDACTED] was okay, I myself could not be of much assistance. I was a man in his thirtys this indeed was the first time in my life I had ever been on a campout.

[REDACTED] And the others returned to see to mess of the big tent. He said " [REDACTED] we have used this tent a hundred times at least. Where is the center pole?" We all looked at three pieces of metal pipe laying off on the grass. I picked them up and said "Is this part of it?"

The boys finally had a chance to laugh at their mess but most of all they found in poking fun at their scout master who had never even seen a tent except in pictures. I was the one who started picking on me.

As the boys set around the camp fire roasting hot dogs and marshmallows I took the opportunity to try my talent of song story telling. As a past entertainer I had learned many country and western songs. Therefore, instead of singing the songs to the boys, I told the words of the songs in story form, which the boys enjoyed very much.

page-3-

AS IT WAS NOW DARK many boys had removed their shirts and sat around enjoying the warm evening. All of a sudden we could hear sirens off at a distance. In another direction we saw several vehicles coming along the path in the woods.

Suddenly the boys seemed alarmed and a little scared. The sirens and flashing lights came closer and closer up the road. Off to our left we heard "over here men and hurry." The flashing red lights and sirens belong to fire engines and fire Marshall's car.

Out of the woods came out about a dozen or so men with axes, shovels and other equipment. The fire Marshall's car came towards us. Behind the car ran a group of firemen.

As they all reached where we are they suddenly stopped about ten feet away. I stood before the fire Marshall. I was still wearing my scout shirt and above our tent was mounted the Troop flag and on another pole was the American flag. The fire Marshall shouted "Scouts, nothing but a group of Boy Scouts?" I handed him a slip of paper that showed we had written permission from the owner to be on this land. A young man in his early twenties stood next to the fire Marshall to read the letter. "The young man said "That's Dad for you never tells anyone what he's doing."

The fire Marshall's comment was "I'll find the nut who traveled in a forest fire. To much in a big hurry to turn up this little road and check the fire source."

(over)

CONF022336

The letter held by the young man clearly indicated this section of land had been donated for use by the entire Area Council to use as a permanent camp site as long as fire safety was acknowledged.

Finally, everyone began to calm down. The fire Marshall inspected the campsite and was writing down some things. The boys did not look at all worried or afraid. They had followed the Scout handbook and then simply doubled the safety of the campsite. Then the fire Marshall handed what he had written to the young man. After reading what had been written he asked "where do I endorse it?"

The boys had just received a citation from the fire Marshall a certificate that acknowledged the fire safety and cleanliness of the camp. I began to cry.

All the men went back to their pick-ups, Jeeps and fire vehicles. As the fire Marshall walked away with another man I quipped "Mr. Johnson, you can tell all your men, we Scouts believe we can put our fire out properly without their help." This made everyone burst out laughing.

This story sounds a little hard to believe but all of it is true and factual. I have served in many capacities with youth over a period of thirty years. However, being a Scoutmaster for 18 months was the greatest award I had ever ~~been given~~ achieved. I help run a life Scout and was part of an Eagle-Nest. Nothing a man can do in his life can be more rewarding to be a Scoutmaster. As President Kennedy said "There's no man too tall, that he can't stoop down to help a child."

UNUSAL Group of Scouts

While STAYING WITH A FAMILY IN OREGAN Their oldest boy [REDACTED] who was ELEVEN YEARS OLD, came in one night AND he was CRYING like his heart WAS breaking..

[REDACTED] WENT INTO his bedroom AND closed the door. BECAUSE he and I had become very close both PARENTS ^{ask} me TO TRY AND discover why he WAS so upset. I WENT INTO

[REDACTED] ROOM AND he WAS lying ON his bed still crying. I began TO rub his back AND TALKING softly. I TOLD him we couldn't help if we didn't know the problem.

[REDACTED] TURNED ON his back, wiped his FACE with his TEE SHIRT AND explained, "I have been IN PACK THREE AS A CUB SCOUT AND TROOP THREE AS A NEW BOY SCOUT.

WE LEARNED TONITE we would HAVE TO disband because we CAN'T get A MAN TO be our scout MASTER." AGAIN, TEARS rolled down his FACE AND he said "Why do men dislike boys so much They won't really help u-"

I TOLD [REDACTED] NOT ALL men dislike boys but there ARE A RARE FEW who will TAKE the time TO get involved IN the scout program.

THE NEXT DAY I WENT TO THE SCOUT OFFICE TO TALK WITH THE local DIRECTOR.. MR. SCOTT had TOLD me there WAS NOTHING wrong WITH the boys IN TROOP THREE, IT WAS JUST THAT AT THIS TIME it seems HARDER AND HARDER TO get men TO serve AS SCOUT MASTERS.. I inquired AS TO WHAT IT TOOK TO get A NEW TROOP FORMED. He TOLD me the basic requirements..

WITHOUT [REDACTED] knowledge I SET TO WORK WITH other boys I knew, some OF which were EX-members OF TROOP THREE. I made them promise TO say NOTHING TO little [REDACTED] UNTIL I had EVERYTHING set. So, FOR TEN days I TALKED TO boys, moms. & DADS I knew.

ONE night [REDACTED], I AND his family were SITTING WATCHING T.V. IT WAS ON A FRIDAY (even).

Soon a knock came at the front door and it was [REDACTED] ex-scout and [REDACTED] a new boy. They wanted to know if they could spend the night with [REDACTED]. This was our planned story for our surprise. A little later [REDACTED] came, he was a black boy, then [REDACTED] came over and these also came to spend the night.

So, the boys and I all went into [REDACTED] room. As they sat around the room, I spoke to [REDACTED] "Well, here you are little buddy, sitting in this very bedroom is the foundation of newer and better Scout Troop Three. You see here my friend, five boys and your new scout master, already registered and approved by your sponsor." At once [REDACTED] fell back laughing and crying at the same time. I told him that boys never say quit or give up until it's absolutely impossible to go on.

That night the six of us set up all night, me drinking pots of coffee and the boys eating lots of sandwiches, we planned and considered a strong set of ways that our new troop would not collapse. I told them five men already agreed to serve as the troop committee. [REDACTED] mom would be our treasurer and when needed transportation would be provided. So everything was set. Our meeting place would be the school gym, across from [REDACTED] house, on Monday's at 7:00 p.m.

The boys came up with names of other boys they would talk to who were not already in scouts. Guess what, [REDACTED] was voted as boy troop leader because he was already a Tenderfoot scout plus he was well liked. The boys came up with a total of 17 other names.

[REDACTED] asked me to talk with a boy that live about four houses from him. That Saturday we walked up the street. I looked around and said "Where's your friend [REDACTED]?"

██████ did become AN EAGLE SCOUT he AND ██████
WERE ON THE SAME EAGLE NEST. ALSO, I RECENTLY
FOUND OUT THAT AS OF JUNE 1ST THIS YEAR ██████
██████ will become THE NEW SCOUT MASTER ON
his 21ST birthday..

So, I SAY TO ALL OF YOU WHO READ THIS STORY
IS IT TRUE, YES indeed. IT SHOWS WHAT DETERMINATION
CAN ACCOMPLISH, Oh I ALMOST FORGOT, THE BEST COOK
DURING OUR CAMPOUTS? ██████ NO, OUR CAMP
COOK WAS ██████ THE blind boy.

THIS EVENT YOU READ ABOUT ACTUALLY DID TAKE
PLACE IN 1978. SINCE THEN MY LOVE AND INTEREST
IN THE SCOUTING PROGRAM. SINCE I'VE LEFT OREGON I
BECAME AN ENTERTAINER-PUPPETEER. I HAVE TRAVELED
THIS COUNTRY SPEAKING OUT FOR THE RIGHTS OF
CHILDREN. WHEN I AM INTERVIEWED BY A NEWSPAPER,
APPEAR ON T.V. OR RADIO I STILL SPEAK ON THE
BEHALF OF THE BOY SCOUTS BECAUSE I FIRMLY DO BELIEVE
IT IS THE GREATEST ORGANIZED YOUTH PROGRAM
THAT WE HAVE TO OFFER.

ONE THING I TAUGHT MY SCOUTS AND NOW I
AND THE PUPPETS WANT TO SAY TO ALL OF YOU
BOYS OR LEADERS WHO MAY READ THIS STORY, PLEASE
DON'T LET THE PHRASE "I CAN'T" ENTER STRONG
IN YOUR LIFE. THINK ABOUT ██████
IN THIS STORY, THEY DIDN'T ALLOW THOSE WORDS
STOP THEM AND NEITHER SHOULD YOU.

So, IN CLOSING, MYSELF AND YOUR PUPPET FRIENDS
WHO TRAVEL ALL OVER FOR YOU SALUTE THE BOY
SCOUTS OF AMERICA AND REMEMBER YOU CAN IF
YOU SINCERELY THINK YOU CAN..

OUR PRAYER IS "God bless AND WATCH OVER
ALL OF YOU FOR US.."

Your Pal
Jim &
Jo-Jo PUPPETT

pointed and said "Right There in his yard." I looked and I saw a very handsome youngster he looked about the same age, he had brown curly hair, sparkly brown eyes and a mile long smile across his face.

Later that morning I went to the scout office to inquire about Johnny joining us. After careful consideration and going over the scout handbook there was nothing to prevent [redacted] becoming a scout.

That night we were sitting in [redacted] room again and I was explaining how they would have to help [redacted] a lot. It seemed all the boys spoke with [redacted] "We will take care of [redacted] okay, you just take care of us."

So, that first Monday night at the first meeting of our new troop, 14 boys present, 4 parents and our scout sponsor from the local Lion's Club, each boy was inducted into the greatest organized boys program in the world.

By those who read this, I made it a hidden thing about [redacted] so you could guess about him. Yes, he was inducted that Monday night and it was [redacted] who proudly pushed his wheel chair forward for the ceremony. [redacted] problem and our pride? He had muscular dystrophy and he was the first ^{SPECIAL} boy in that entire ^{AREA} ever to be inducted into the scouts. Oh, yes another special boy we had was [redacted], he was a blind boy.

We also had two oriental boys and a full blooded Modoc Indian boy. So you see we did have a very unusual troop but I thought the best in the world.

For those who might be interested,

March 17, 1987

Darryl Buckingham 400408

[REDACTED]
Huntsville, TX 77343

Dear Mr. Buckingham:

Your letter to the editor of BOYS' LIFE and your requests have been passed along to me.

I will work on your request pursuant to approval from your supervisor.

Any unsolicited work submitted to BOYS' LIFE is usually returned if not used. Accompanying clear photographs always help the article.

Thank you for your interest.

Sincerely,

William Downs
Circulation Director

kn

cc: W. McMorris, S300
P. Ernst, S108

CONF022342

HUNTSVILLE, TX 77343

CONF022343